

## 19 items put under Deepavali Price Scheme

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Georgie (left) placing the pink price tag on one of the listed items.

**Kota Kinabalu:** The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) will be implementing the 2019 Deepavali Festive Season Maximum Price Scheme on 19 items, nationwide, with exceptions for lady's finger and mutton.

In the case of Kacang Bendi (okra or lady's finger) it is due to the cheap price in the State compared to peninsula and, thus, does not warrant enforcement.

"Due to supply shortage, local goat meat (with bones) will also not be enforced," said State Director Georgie Abbas, during an inspection at Kolombong Giant Hypermarket, Tuesday.

Also present was Sabah Deputy Chief Enforcement Officer Abd Muis Samsudin, among others.

The Ministry would be enforcing the scheme on the listed items for 14 days from Oct. 20 to Nov. 2 under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011.

Among the items controlled for wholesale and retail prices:

- Live chicken RM5.90 and RM6.60per kg
- Standard chicken (slaughtered and cleaned) RM8.50 and RM9.50per kg.
- Super graded chicken or "Ayam Super" (slaughtered and cleaned) RM8.80 and RM9.80per kg.

- Imported goat and lamb meat (with bones) RM28 and RM30.00per kg.
- Grade A eggs (65 to 69.9gm per egg) RM0.39 and RM0.41 per egg.
- Grade B eggs (60 to 64.9gm per egg) RM0.38 and RM0.40 per egg.
- Grade C eggs (55 to 59.9gm per egg) RM0.37 and RM0.39 per egg.
- Tomato RM3.50 and RM4.50per kg.
- Imported cabbage (Indonesia and China but excluding Beijing) RM2.50 and RM3.50per kg.
- Whole coconut RM1.50 for one
- Grated coconut RM5 per kg (only for retail price)
- Red chili RM8 and RM10 per kg.
- Dried chili RM15 and RM17 per kg.
- Shallots (India) RM6.50 and RM7.50per kg.
- Imported onions RM5.50 and RM6.50per kg.
- Imported potato (China) RM2.50 and RM3.50per kg, and
- Dal (Australia) RM4 and RM5 per kg.

The Ministry determined the prices for producers, wholesale and retail based on several factors, including price survey throughout the nation in 2018 and Jan to Oct, 2019 by the Ministry, opinions and discussions with other relevant agencies as well as producers, importers, suppliers and wholesalers.

With the implementation of the scheme, he reminded traders and sellers to adhere to the price limits and place pink tags on the items to differentiate the controlled items from other items.

The Ministry would take strict action under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 against those who failed to adhere to the scheme rules.

"Individuals can be fined RM100,000 by the court or face prison not more than three years, or both, or will be compounded up to RM50,000, while companies can be fined RM500,000 or compounded up to RM250,00," he added.

Although it is a festive season, Georgie assured that the ministry will strengthen price monitoring in collaboration from various parties such as price monitoring officers, friends of KPDNHEP as well as other relevant agencies, aside from providing various mediums to channel complaints on exorbitant prices.